



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Kevin Engler
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**UPDATE: Senator Kevin Engler Files Complaint Against
Contractors for Using Illegal Workers at
Farmington Construction Site**
Attorney General Agrees to Investigate Complaint

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, has filed a complaint with the attorney general’s office against the contractor and subcontractor hired to build the Hampton Inn in Farmington. The St. Francois County Sheriff’s department arrested 14 undocumented workers at the construction site on February 13. Attorney General Chris Koster announced yesterday his office will investigate the complaint. Rep. Linda Fischer, D-Bonne Terre, also filed a complaint.

Senator Engler filed the complaint against [Thomas Construction](#) and its subcontractor for using undocumented workers. Thomas Construction is based in Osage Beach, Missouri, and is not to be confused with any other Missouri-based construction firms of similar name.

“Senator Engler and Representative Fischer have given important voice to the concerns of thousands of citizens in this state regarding the frequency of undocumented workers participating in construction in this region,” Attorney General Koster said. “The Attorney General’s office looks forward to investigating this situation and reporting back to the members of the General Assembly and the state at large.”

Under a law approved by the Legislature in 2008, employers that knowingly hire or continue to employ illegal immigrants can face civil liability in state courts and lose their business licenses.

“The unemployment rate in St. Francois County is at 11.1 percent,” Sen. Engler said. “It is outrageous that illegal aliens were receiving more than \$13 an hour when there are so many skilled local workers without jobs.”

With the complaint filed, Sen. Engler said the attorney general’s office may now investigate and bring civil action against the businesses for knowingly employing illegal immigrants.

The attorney general indicated that investigators from his office intend to make contact with corporate representatives involved with the construction as early as this week.

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